

Australian Entomological Magazine

Aust. ent. Mag.

Volume 9, Part 1

June, 1982



NEW RECORDS OF LYCAENIDAE AND HESPERIIDAE (LEPIDOPTERA) FROM NORTHERN QUEENSLAND

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Abstract

Distribution extensions for eight species of HesperIIDae and seven species of LycaenIDae are given. *Acrodipsas brisbanensis* (Miskin) is recorded from northern Queensland for the first time.

Introduction

The following records provide some notable range extensions for several species of LycaenIDae and HesperIIDae. Of particular interest are the first record of *Acrodipsas brisbanensis* (Miskin) from northern Queensland and a new location for *Zetona delospila* (Waterhouse).

HESPERIIDAE

Euschemon rafflesia alba Mabille. This species occurs commonly at the southern extremity of the Paluma Range 16 km south-west of Bluewater, and 40 km west of Townsville. Specimens were collected on 11 October 1980 and 21 February 1981. This species was previously recorded as far south as Paluma (Common and Waterhouse 1981).

Chaetocneme porphyropis (Meyrick and Lower). This species is seldom taken and specimens have mainly been collected in the Kuranda area. On 22 February 1978 a specimen was taken in rain forest 6 km east of Babinda in the Graham Range.

Tagiades japetus janetta Butler. It appears that this species may be actively extending its range southward as suggested by J. F. R. Kerr (Common and Waterhouse 1972: 75). At that time the southern known limit was Paluma.

Common and Waterhouse (1981) record the species as far south as Proserpine and Shute Harbour. On 7 April 1980 one specimen was taken and discarded and others seen at Jim Crow Mountain, Yeppoon (A. J. Johnson, pers. comm.).

Trapezites heteromacula Meyrick and Lower. This skipper is generally considered rare throughout its known range from Cape York to Kuranda (Common and Waterhouse 1981). A male was taken on 14 March 1980 flying in savannah woodland at the southern extremity of the Paluma Range, 16 km south-west of Bluewater and 40 km west of Townsville.

Toxidia rietmanni parasema (Lower). A male of this northern subspecies was taken on 24 February 1980 at Paluma. Further specimens were taken between 4 October and 19 October 1980 at the southern extremity of the Paluma Range, 40 km west of Townsville. The southern limit given in Common and Waterhouse (1981) is Herberton.

Neohesperilla senta (Miskin). Several specimens were collected near Bluewater Creek, 1 km north-east of Bluewater, on 23 February 1980 and 1 March 1980. This record extends the known range of the species south to Townsville.

Hesperilla sexguttata Herrich-Schäffer. A single specimen of this rather elusive species was collected adjacent to Ollera Creek, 60 km north-west of Townsville on 7 April 1980. Another was taken at Cape Cleveland east of Townsville on 20 April 1980. This species was previously known from the Townsville district only from Magnetic Island (Atkins 1978).

Suniana lascivia neocles (Mabille). Common and Waterhouse (1981) record this species in north-eastern Queensland south to Ingham. In March 1980 two males were collected at the southern end of the Paluma Range, 40 km west of Townsville and some 16 km south-west of Bluewater.

LYCAENIDAE

Acrodipsas brisbanensis (Miskin). The distribution of the most northern subspecies is eastern New South Wales and south-eastern Queensland as far north as the Bunya and Glasshouse Mountains (Common and Waterhouse 1981, Sands 1979). On 29 March 1980 a pair was collected from a hilltop 18 km west of Paluma. Subsequently a male was taken at the same locality on 5 April and another on 19 April 1980. Examination of the male genitalia has confirmed the species identification. This record is most notable, bridging the disjunction in the distribution of the genus between Coen and Expedition Range, and extending the known range of *A. brisbanensis* by 1,200 km.

Hypochrysops pythias euclides Miskin. This species was common at the southern end of the Paluma Range on 11 October 1980. The species appears to be very local and all specimens collected have been flying around clumps of the food plant (*Triumfetta rhomboidea*) or adjacent trees. De Baar (1979) reported rearing larvae from Paluma and we have subsequently found larvae in the Paluma area.

Hypolycaena danis turneri (Waterhouse). Known to extend south to Innisfail (Common and Waterhouse 1981). A fresh specimen was collected along the Wallaman Falls road, 30 km west of Ingham, on 8 March 1980.

Deudorix epijarbas dido Waterhouse. Common and Waterhouse (1981) record the southern limit of this subspecies as Tully, and throughout its range it is not common. In March 1980 a male was taken along Wallaman Falls road, 30 km west of Ingham, and on 17 February 1980 several males were collected in fresh condition from a hilltop near the Black River, 17 km west of Townsville.

Zetona delospila (Waterhouse). Originally known only from the Kimberley region of Western Australia specimens have more recently been taken from near Fairview in far north Queensland (Monteith and Hancock, 1977). In early May 1980 specimens were common at Porcupine Gorge National Park about 70 km north of Hughenden. No specimen was netted but several close-up 35 mm slides were taken by Mr David Thomae of Cairns and these enabled positive identification of this distinctive species. On 16 May 1981 some forty specimens were seen at the same locality by the authors despite inclement weather.

Danis danis serapis Miskin. A specimen was netted in Townsville in May 1977 and another taken on 11 October 1980 south-west of Bluewater about 40 km west of Townsville. The species is recorded as far south as the Paluma Range (Common and Waterhouse 1981).

Megisba strongyle nigra (Miskin). The previously known southern limit of this small and unobtrusive lycaenid is given in Common and Waterhouse (1981) as Paluma. Between 2 February and 25 April 1980 several specimens were taken on Mt Stuart, Townsville.

Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank Mr A. J. Johnson of Brisbane and Mr David Thomae of Cairns for permission to refer to their unpublished observations. Advice from Mr M. S. Moulds on the preparation of this paper is also acknowledged.

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